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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAR ES 03063 190758Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 190720Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9252
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 3063

EXDIS

HELSINKI FOR CAT DELEGATION FOR MARTIN CHESHES

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PCAT, PARM, US, UR, TZ
SUBJ: US - SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMS TALKS: AFRICA

REF: STATE 178349

1. ADCM CALLED ON A.M. HYERA, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S LEGAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION, ON JULY 18 TO DISCUSS THIRD ROUND OF US-SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ARMS TALKS.

2. HYERA COMMENTED BROADLY ON ARMS CONTROL AND DIS-ARMAMENT. HE SAID TANGOV WAS VERY DISCOURAGED ABOUT SOVIET - AMERICAN DISARMAMENT/ARMS CONTROL TALKS, TANGOV, HE SAID, SUPPORTED GENUINE DISARMAMENT, BUT THE GREAT MILITARY POWERS HAD TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE. IMPLICATION OF HYERA'S REMARKS IS THAT TANGOV IS GENERALLY DUBIOUS ABOUT US AND SOVIET EFFORTS IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT.

3. ON THE MORE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS, HYERA INDICATED TANZANIA'S INTEREST LAY IN HAVING A STRONG ARMY. IN THIS REGARD HE MENTIONED UNSPECIFIED "REGIONAL"

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PROBLEMS AND SOUTH AFRICA. THE LIBERATION QUESTION, HE SAID, HAD TO COME FIRST. HE THOUGHT IT WAS NOT REALISTIC TO ASK AFRIA TO DISARM UNTIL THE CONTINENT WAS LIBERATED. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS POINTLESS TO ASK THE SMALL COUNTRIES TO DISARM AS WORLD TENSIONS WERE NOT CREATED BY THEM. HE GAVE NO SIGN, HOWEVER, THAT HE CONSIDERED US - SOVIET EXPLORATION PER SE OF POSSIBLE REGIONAL RESTRAINTS

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IN AFRICA OUT OF LINE.

4. COMMENT. HYERA TENDED TO MAKE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN ARMS CONTROL MEASURES AND DISARMAMENT. FOR TANGOV, DISARMAMENT IS THE KEY ISSUE BUT THIS IS SEEN AS A PROBLEM FOR THE USSR AND US, NOT FOR SMALL COUNTRIES LIKE TANZANIA. TANGOV IS UNLIKELY TO ENDORSE CONCEPT OF RESTRAINT IN ARMS TRANSFERS IN AFRICA UNTIL 1) ALL AFRICAN LIBERATION QUESTIONS ARE RESOLVED AND 2) IT BECOMES MORE CONVINCED THAT US AND USSR ARE WILLING TO ACT SINCERELY IN DIMINISHING THREAT TO THE WORLD FROM THEIR OWN ARMS BUILD-UP.
SPAIN

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